

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a source generator configured to convert image information into digital image information; and

an encoder coupled to the source generator, the encoder configured to receive the digital image information from the source generator and comprising:

a parameter generator to output ~~at least a first~~ set of parameters;

~~a first~~ an image compressor coupled to the parameter generator, the ~~first~~ image compressor to compress the digital image information using the ~~first~~ set of parameters, when the set of parameters is determined to result in a compressed data bit rate below a selected threshold so that a decoder will not stop during playback.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the parameter generator comprises:

a second image compressor to compress the digital information using ~~a second~~ the set of parameters;

a processor coupled to the ~~first and second~~ image compressor ~~compressors~~, ~~the processor to output the second set of parameters~~, the processor to adjust the ~~second~~ set of parameters and ~~output a third set of parameters as the~~ generate a second set of parameters, ~~if the use of the second set of parameters results in a selected data bit rate, and otherwise, to output the second set of parameters as the first set of parameters~~ when the set of parameters is determined to result in the compressed data bit rate not below the selected threshold and set the second set of parameters as said set of parameters when the second set of parameters is determined to result in the compressed data bit rate below the selected threshold.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the parameter generator further comprises:

a statistic generator coupled to the processor, the statistic generator configured to generate a statistical analysis; and wherein

the processor adjusts the second set of parameters based on the statistical analysis.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the parameter generator comprises:

a processor to output the ~~first~~ set of parameters, the processor to adjust the ~~first~~ set of parameters to generate a second set of parameters if the use of the ~~first~~ set of parameters results in a selected data bit rate is determined to result in the compressed data bit rate not below the selected threshold, and to output the second set of parameters as ~~the first said~~ set of parameters when the second set of parameters is determined to result in the compressed data bit rate below the selected threshold.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the parameter generator further comprises:

a statistic generator coupled to the processor, the statistic generator configured to generate a statistical analysis; and wherein

the processor adjusts the ~~first~~ set of parameters based on the statistical analysis.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the statistical analysis involves analyzing bits per pixel for images.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the statistical analysis determines the effectiveness of the ~~first~~ set of parameters.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ~~first~~ set of parameters includes Q-steps and the first image compressor comprises:

a transform module to convert the digital image information from spatial to frequency domain, the transform module to generate transform coefficients;

a quantization module to quantize the transform coefficients using the Q-steps; and

a variable length coding module to compress the quantized transform coefficients.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the ~~first~~ set of parameters further includes frequency weight mask (FWM) tables and the quantization module to quantize the transform coefficients using FWM tables and Q-steps.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the ~~first~~ set of parameters further includes a Huffman code tables and the variable length coding module includes a Huffman engine to compress the quantized transform coefficients using the Huffman code tables.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the ~~first~~ set of parameters further includes an adaptive block size discrete transform (ABSDCT) threshold and the transform module comprises an ABSDCT module to convert the digital image information from spatial to frequency domain using ABSDCT according to the ABSDCT threshold.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the digital image information is at least a portion of a film.

13. (Withdrawn) A method for encoding digital image information comprising:
generating and outputting at least a first set of parameters;
compressing the digital image information using the first set of parameters; and
adjusting the first set of parameters to generate a second set of parameters if the use of the first set of parameters results in a selected data bit rate, and outputting the second set of parameters as the first set of parameters.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein compressing the digital image information comprises:
converting the digital image information from spatial to frequency domain and generating transform coefficients;
quantizing the transform coefficients using first Q-steps; and
variable length coding the quantized transform coefficients.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein the first set of parameters includes the first Q-steps and adjusting the first set of parameters comprises:

adjusting the first Q-steps to generate the second set of parameters if the use of the first set of parameters results in the selected data bit rate, and outputting the second set of parameters as the first set of parameters.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein quantizing the transform coefficients using the first Q-steps and first frequency weight mask (FWM) tables.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the first set of parameters includes the first Q-steps and the FWM tables, and wherein adjusting the first set of parameters comprises:

adjusting either one or both the first Q-steps and the first FWM tables to generate the second set of parameters if the use of the first set of parameters results in the selected data bit rate, and outputting the second set of parameters as the first set of parameters.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein converting the digital image information using ABSDCT based on a first ABSDCT threshold.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the first set of parameters includes the first Q-steps and the first ABSDCT threshold, and wherein adjusting the first set of parameters comprises:

adjusting either one or both the first Q-steps and the first ABSDCT threshold to generate the second set of parameters if the use of the first set of parameters results in the selected data bit rate, and outputting the second set of parameters as the first set of parameters.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein variable length coding comprises Huffman coding the quantized transform coefficients using first Huffman code tables.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the first set of parameters includes the first Q-steps and the first Huffman code tables, and wherein adjusting the first set of parameters comprises:

adjusting either one or both the first Q-steps and the first Huffman code tables to generate the second set of parameters if the use of the first set of parameters results in the selected data bit rate, and outputting the second set of parameters as the first set of parameters.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein adjusting the first set of parameters based on a statistical analysis to generate the second set of parameters.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein the adjusting the first set of parameters based on a bits per pixel analysis to determine if the use of the first set of parameters results in the selected data bit rate.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the selected bit rate depends on either one of a maximum bit rate as allowed a limited bandwidth or an average bit rate over a certain time period.

25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for encoding digital image information comprising:

means for outputting ~~at least a first~~ set of parameters; and

~~first~~ means for compressing the digital image information using the ~~first~~ set of parameters when the set of parameters is determined to result in a compressed data bit rate below a selected threshold so that a decoder will not stop during playback.

26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the means for outputting ~~at least the first~~ set of parameters comprises:

~~second~~ means for compressing the digital information using a second set of parameters;

means for outputting the second set of parameters;

means for adjusting the second set of parameters ~~to generate a third set of parameters; and~~

~~means for outputting the third set of parameters as the second set of parameters, if the use of the second set of parameters results in a selected data bit rate, and otherwise,~~

~~outputting the second set of parameters as the first set of parameters~~ when the set of parameters is determined to result in the compressed data bit rate not below the selected threshold and set the second set of parameters as said set of parameters when the second set of parameters is determined to result in the compressed data bit rate below the selected threshold.

27. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the means for outputting at least the first set of parameters comprises:

means for adjusting the first set of parameters to generate a second set of parameters if the use of the first set of parameters results in a selected data bit rate; and

means for outputting the second set of parameters as the first set of parameters.

28. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for encoding digital image information comprising:

a parameter generator to output ~~at least a first~~ set of parameters;

~~a first~~ an image compressor coupled to the parameter generator, the ~~first~~ image compressor to compress the digital image information using the ~~first~~ set of parameters, when the set of parameters is determined to result in a compressed data bit rate below a selected threshold so that a decoder will not stop during playback.

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the parameter generator comprises:

a second image compressor to compress the digital information using ~~a second~~ the set of parameters;

a processor coupled to the ~~first and second~~ image compressors, ~~the processor to output the second set of parameters, the processor to adjust the second set of parameters and output a third set of parameters as the second set of parameters, if the use of the second set of parameters results in a selected data bit rate, and otherwise, to output the second set of parameters as the first set of parameters~~ when the set of parameters is determined to result in the compressed data bit rate not below the selected threshold and set the second set of parameters as said set of parameters when the second set of parameters is determined to result in the compressed data bit rate below the selected threshold.

30. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the parameter generator comprises:

a processor to output the first set of parameters, the processor to adjust the first set of parameters to generate a second set of parameters if the use of the first set of parameters results in a selected data bit rate, and to output the second set of parameters as the first set of parameters.

31. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the parameter generator comprises:

a processor to adjust the set of parameters to generate a second set of parameters if the use of the set of parameters is determined to result in the compressed data bit rate not below the selected threshold and to repeatedly adjust the second set of parameters until the second set of parameters is determined to result in the compressed data bit rate below the selected threshold.